

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claim 29 (claims 1-9 were previously canceled). Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~striketrough text~~. No new matter is added by this amendment.

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A medical stent comprising:

a single-piece stent body comprising:

a first section defining a lumen and comprising a first retention structure, the first section comprising a first material having a first durometer value;

a second section defining a lumen and comprising a second retention structure, the second section comprising a second material having a second durometer value, wherein the second durometer value is greater than the first durometer value; and

a third section defining a lumen having a longitudinal axis, the third section and located between the first and second sections, wherein the third section comprises a co-extrusion of the first and second materials ~~and wherein the first and second materials are distinct and are associated in an irregular configuration,~~ the first material and the second material being distinct from each other and arranged substantially asymmetrically within a plane normal to the longitudinal axis.

11. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein the first material comprises ethylene vinyl acetate.

12. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein the first material has a durometer value of about 70 to about 90 on a Shore A scale.

13. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein the second material has a durometer value of about 80 to about 95 on a Shore A scale.

14. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein a cross-section of the lumen in at least one of the first, second, and third sections is circular.

15. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein a cross-section of at least one of the first, second, and third sections is circular.

16. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein at least one of the first, second, and third section comprises a radiopaque material.

17. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein the stent body does not substantially soften when exposed to a temperature of a human body.

18. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein at least a portion of the stent body is sized for placement in a ureter.

19. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein an outer surface of the third section smoothly transitions to outer surfaces of the first and second sections immediately proximate the third section and an inner diameter of the third section is substantially constant through the third section and on either side of the third section immediately proximate to the third section in the first and second sections.

20. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10 wherein an inner diameter of third section is substantially constant through the third section and on either side of the third section immediately proximate to the third section in the first and second sections.

21. (Currently amended) A medical stent comprising:
a single-piece stent body comprising:
a first section defining a lumen and comprising a first retention structure, the first section comprising a first material and a first coil having a first retention strength;
a second section defining a lumen and comprising a second retention structure, the second section comprising a second material and a second coil having a second retention strength, wherein the second retention strength is greater than the first retention strength; and
a third section defining a lumen having a longitudinal axis, the third section and located between the first and second sections, wherein the third section comprises a co-extrusion of the first and second materials and wherein the first and second materials are distinct and are associated in an irregular configuration, the first material and the second material being distinct from each other and arranged substantially asymmetrically within a plane normal to the longitudinal axis.
22. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 21 wherein the stent body does not substantially soften when exposed to a temperature of a human body.
23. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 21 wherein at least a portion of the stent body is sized for placement in a ureter.
24. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 21 wherein an outer surface of the third section smoothly transitions to outer surfaces of the first and second sections immediately proximate the third section.
25. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 21 wherein an inner diameter of the third section is substantially constant through the third section and on either side of the third section immediately proximate to the third section in the first and second sections.

26. (Currently amended) A method for placing a medical stent comprising:
inserting a medical stent into a ureter, the medical stent comprising:
a single-piece stent body comprising:
a first section defining a lumen and comprising a first retention structure, the first section comprising a first material having a first durometer value;
a second section defining a lumen and comprising a second retention structure, the second section comprising a second material having a second durometer value, wherein the second durometer value is greater than the first durometer value; and
a third section defining a lumen having a longitudinal axis, the third section and located between the first and second sections, wherein the third section comprises a co-extrusion of the first and second materials and wherein the first and second materials are distinct and are associated in an irregular configuration the first material and the second material being distinct from each other and arranged substantially asymmetrically within a plane normal to the longitudinal axis.
27. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10, wherein the first section is devoid of the second material.
28. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10, wherein the second section is devoid of the first material.
29. (Canceled)
30. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10, wherein the third section is configured such that the relative amount of the first material and the second material varies along a longitudinal axis of the third section.

31. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 10, wherein the third section is configured such that the relative amount of the first material and the second material varies non-linearly along a longitudinal axis of the third section.

32. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 21, wherein the first section is devoid of the second material and the second section is devoid of the first material.